

REMARKSStatus of the Application

Claims 3 and 14-24 are pending. Claim 3 is objected to. Claims 14-16 are allowed. Claims 17-24 are rejected.

Drawings

In response to the objections to the drawings, claim 22 has been cancelled. In further response, Applicants submit that the "opposing two layers" of claim 16 are shown in Figure 5, wherein reinforcing tube 64 is inserted within a slot 65 "formed in the corner post outer wall 66 and defined by opposing plies."

(Paragraph 0036) "Plies" as used in paragraph 0036 is the equivalent of the term "layers" used in claim 16. "Ply" is also defined as "a layer of paper or paperboard" in Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, 1983 Merriam Webster, Inc.

Claim Objections

Claims 3 and 21 have been cancelled.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka JP 7276543 and/or Tabuchi JP 11059733 and Examiner Official Notice. In response, applicants request cancellation of claims 18-23.

In further response, Applicants have amended claim 17 to distinguish it from Tanaka and Tabuchi as follows. Amended claim 17 now requires that the reinforcing tubes have a circular cross section and an outside diameter less than the distance between

the corner post outer and inner walls, thereby causing the reinforcing tubes to be held in place by the outer and inner walls. Support for these amendments is found in the specification as filed at paragraphs 0027 ("circular cross-section") and 0030 ("the outside diameter of the reinforcing tubes is that which causes the tubes to be held in place...").

Neither Tanaka nor Tabuchi discloses the new limitations of amended claim 17. That is, neither reference teaches that the insertable tubes have a diameter less than the outer corner post, thereby causing the insertable tubes to be held in place by the corner post walls. Tanaka only discloses insertable tubes held in place within a corner post by adhesives 44 (paragraph 0025 and Figures 10, 12 and 14). Tabuchi only discloses insertable tubes held in place within a corner post by rubber rings 20 (see claim 1 for example).

As to claim 24, Applicants disagree that adhesive bead 44 in Tanaka Fig. 12 renders the claim obvious. Applicants' specification makes clear that the term "bead" refers to a groove, not to a bead of adhesive. (See paragraph 0023: "The outer wall typically includes integrally formed beads of grooves 7 for added stiffness and resistance.") Nevertheless, Applicants have amended claim 24 to more clearly distinguish it from Tanaka and Tabuchi. Amended claim 24 now specifies that the bead is "integrally formed in the outer wall of the support post." This limitation is supported at paragraphs 0023 and 0026 as well as in

Figures 2 and 6.

New Claim

New claim 25, based primarily on cancelled claim 3, requires one or more reinforcing tubes inserted into the hollow interior of a corner post while the post is wet and captured by the corner post as it dries. This new claim is supported in the specification as filed at paragraph 0028. Applicant submits that new claim 25 is allowable over the prior art of record.

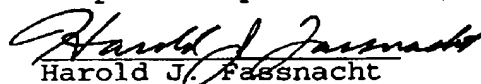
Allowed Claims

Applicants appreciate examiner's statement that claims 14-16 are allowed.

Summary

It is believed that this paper constitutes a complete response to the Office Action mailed October 19, 2005, and an early and favorable action allowing claims 14-17 and 24-25 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,


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